

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02260 041525Z
ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /063 W
-----095747 051054Z /15
R 041520Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2770

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, TD
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EXIM BANK PARTICIPATION IN BWIA
AIRCRAFT FINANCING

REF: STATE 195637

1. ALTHOUGH BWIA HAS RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES ARISING OUT OF FEBRUARY PILOTS' STRIKE, MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP HAVE NOT CHANGED. LINE IS WHOLLY OWNED BY GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATOR IS PETER LOOK HONG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. MANAGEMENT TEAM IS RELATIVELY YOUNG, AND LACKS EXPERIENCE IN SOME AREAS, AND GOTT IS CONSIDERING OBTAINING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE AIRLINE'S PERFORMANCE. OPERATIONS HAVE NOW RESUMED ON MOST ROUTES PREVIOUSLY SERVED BY BWIA, BUT WITH REDUCED PASSENGER LOADS AND SERVICES. WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL BE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE LINE IS OPERATING AT NORMAL LEVELS.

2. TEAM FROM NEW YORK OFFICE OF AIRBUS INDUSTRIE WAS IN TOWN JULY 24-25 TO PUSH ITS A-300 IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BWIA MANAGEMENT. WHILE THIS PLANE DOES NOT HAVE ADEQUATE RANGE FOR SOME OF BWIA'S RUNS, ESPECIALLY TO LONDON, WE HAVE

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HEARD REPORT THEY MAY BE PROPOSING A COMBINATION OF AIRBUS AND U.S.-MADE PLANE TO BWIA. ON RATIONAL GROUNDS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS APPROACH. HOWEVER, GIVEN RECENT WARM RELATIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT, THERE IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY THAT DECISION MAY BE MADE ON OTHER THAN PURELY TECHNICAL GROUNDS. O'MAHONY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, BANKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780897/aaaaddy.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 19ee356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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